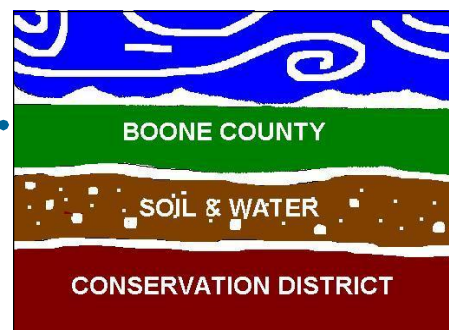


## BOONE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



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**JOIN US ON JANUARY 24, 2012 FOR THE BOONE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S ANNUAL MEETING**



The Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District will hold its **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Meeting on January 24, 2012 at 6:30 PM** in the Community Building at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds.

This year our featured speaker will be Lisa Schluttenhofer. Lisa is a senior at Purdue University majoring in Agricultural Communication. She has been keeping honeybees for 10 years, and in 2010, was selected as the American Honey Queen, a yearlong position on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation in which she traveled to 22 states promoting the importance of honeybee pollination.

There will be a complimentary dinner provided by Farm Credit Services.

Please call 765-483-4449 by **January 18, 2012 to make reservations** or email Scheryl Vaughn at [svaughn@co.boone.in.us](mailto:svaughn@co.boone.in.us).

*Your e-mail address is needed*

The Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District sends out 2 newsletters a year. We send out the summer newsletter in June and our annual newsletter in December. As budgets are increasingly being tightened, we are seeking additional ways to help decrease our expenses. One way we can greatly reduce our expenses is being able to send our newsletters out via e-mail. This will be sent as a PDF file. We realize this will not be viable to all and if you are unable to receive this by e-mail, we will send the newsletter to you via mail. Please call Scheryl Vaughn at 765-483-4449 or e-mail her at [svaughn@co.boone.in.us](mailto:svaughn@co.boone.in.us) with your e-mail address and you will be added to the distribution list for our newsletters. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**The 2012 Soil Health/No-Till Conservation Field Day will be held in Hendricks County sometime in August. Date and Location to be announced.**



## Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District “Helping people care for the land”



## INVASIVE SPECIES IN BOONE COUNTY

### **What are Invasive Species?**

Invasive plants are ones that spread prolifically, often dominating a landscape by out-competing all other plants. They are usually exotic, meaning that they are not originally from the area.

### **Why Should You Be Concerned?**

Invasive plants take over the area in which they grow. Reducing the diversity of plants in an area is detrimental to the health of the ecosystem. Wildlife can be deprived of food or shelter, invasive species may feed exotic pests or spread disease and invasive plants may not provide the same soil and water benefits that native species do.

According to our local Indiana Department of Natural Resources District Forester, Eric Summerfield, there are 36 Classified Tracts of land in Boone County. Approximately 10 of those Tracts are Classified Wildlands and the rest are forested. Eric goes on to say that “Invasive species are definitely a problem. Most of the properties that I have visited in the recent past have some issue with Asian Bush Honeysuckle. There is Autumn Olive present in many areas, especially in Wildlife areas because it was a recommended planting many years back. Garlic Mustard is not as much of an issue as the previously mentioned species, but is working its way into the area and can be quite bad in some areas.” He also states that “Multiflora Rose can be quite bad in many areas, especially if they were previously pastured. Water quality and erosion could also be an issue because of removal of small wood lots and removal of trees along streams and fence rows.”

Some other invasive species that are in the County are; Japanese honeysuckle, Crown Vetch, Reed Canary Grass, Common Reed or Phragmites, Oriental Bittersweet, Buckthorns, Tree of Heaven, Canada Thistle and Sweet Clover.

### **What can you do?**

Invasives can be difficult to control due to their quick spreading behavior. Early detection is key. If you do find them, you can manually pull them, mechanically cut or remove them or chemically treat them. Sometimes a combination of these methods is most effective. The best method and time to remove a plant varies with each species, so carefully research the plant before taking action. Be sure to continue watching the area, as more plants are likely to sprout. On average, it takes 3-4 years for complete eradication.

For more information on invasive plants, you can contact;

Our office at 765-483-4449 or e-mail Scheryl Vaughn at [svaughn@co.boone.in.us](mailto:svaughn@co.boone.in.us), Jay Tranbarger at [jtranbarger@co.boone.in.us](mailto:jtranbarger@co.boone.in.us).

**Bush Honeysuckle Flowering**



**Bush Honeysuckle**



**Bush Honeysuckle Berries**



<u>Brillion Seeder</u>	One to Three Acres _____	\$30 Minimum
	For Four or more Acres _____	\$10 per acre

## 2011 Cost share practices installed in Boone County

<u>Practice</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>\$</u>
Closure of Waste Impoundments	5.0	\$25,042.50
Residue and Tillage Management	471.8	\$10,511.70
Pest Management	2713.6	\$27,991.08
Nutrient Management	1635.0	\$12,169.00
Cover Crop	278.3	\$8,627.30
Eagle Creek Alliance 319 Grant	3735.9	\$58,280.24
Big Walnut Watershed Alliance 319 Grant	300.0	\$7,500.00
Eagle Creek LARE Cost Share		\$12,798.50
Waste Storage Facility	1.0	\$30,089.70
Conservation Crop Rotation	117.2	\$2,678.00
Closure of Waste Impoundments	1.0	\$9,660.00
Waste Utilization	433.2	\$12,987.00
CRP Annual payments made for 2011 & past practices		\$201,000.00
CRP Cost-Share and PIP paid on completed practices	121.0	\$138,436.00
CRP Planned practices	186.9	

**Total \$ brought into the county in 2011: \$557,771.02**

**Total # of ac. in programs in 2011: 9999.9**



### **Indiana NRCS Announces Ranking Dates for Three Major Conservation Initiatives**

Indianapolis, December 5, 2011- Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces three initiatives being offered in Indiana through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#): On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnels. NRCS can assist farmers with evaluation their needs and planning to install these practices, and with installation costs.

Farmers can apply for assistance at any time, but applications for these three initiatives will be ranked three times during the year. "Giving farmers more time to choose the option that is right for their operations and making it easier to apply for the practices they need to benefit the natural resources on their operations is behind the decision to move to multiple ranking dates for each initiative," Hardisty explains.

While NRCS accepts applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on a continuous basis throughout the year, the three ranking periods for the Organic, On-Farm Energy and Seasonal High Tunnel initiatives will all end on February 3, March 30 and June 1, 2012. At the end of a ranking period, NRCS ranks all submitted proposals for funding consideration using national, state and local ranking criteria. NRCS then notifies all applicants of the results of the rankings and begins developing contracts with selected applicants.

According to Teresah Caire, Assistant State Conservationist for Farm Bill Programs, over \$16 million dollars in EQIP funds was awarded to Indiana Producers in 2011. "We encourage our producers to take advantage of the conservation opportunities being made available to them through these EQIP Initiatives," Caire said.

Through the three initiatives announced today, those opportunities could include longer growing seasons, assessing on-farm energy savings, becoming organic certified, conserving natural resources while improving operations, and providing a greater supply of locally grown food.

### **Indiana Initiative Overviews**

On-Farm Energy Initiative: NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. NRCS then uses audit data to develop energy conservation recommendations.

Organic Initiative: NRCS helps organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices.

Seasonal High Tunnel Pilot Initiative: NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels, steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops. More than 4,000 high tunnels have been planned and implemented nationwide through this initiative over the past two years. This is Indiana's first year to offer the practice through EQIP.

Farmers in Boone or Hamilton County interested in learning more about these initiatives should contact Angela Garrison, NRCS District Conservationist at 317-373-2345. Additional incentives are available for farmers who are beginning, have limited resources, or who are socially disadvantaged. Visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/outreach/slbfr> to learn more about NRCS' Historically Underserved program.

*Angie Garrison*

~ 801 W. Pearl St. Lebanon, IN 46052 ~ Phone: 765-482-6355 x 3 ~ Fax: 765-482-9478~





## Farm Service Agency Will Use Primarily Email to Communicate with Farmers

Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana stated that the Farm Service Agency is moving toward electronic communication as the delivery mechanism for informing farmers of FSA programs.

"The USDA Farm Service Agency is doing its part to reduce the federal deficit and is making changes that will affect our direct communications with farm owners and operators," said Wickard. In an effort to reduce operating costs, FSA is reducing postage expenses as much as possible. **FSA will no longer be mailing newsletters or farm acreage maps. Producers will need to pick maps up at the county office, or receive them electronically.** "We are looking at every aspect as to how we conduct business and we are reducing expenses wherever possible without negatively affecting our ability to provide services to producers," said Wickard.

Consequently, FSA is making an effort to collect email addresses of farm owners and operators. Like other agricultural businesses today, FSA is trying to use email notification to provide pertinent information such as deadlines, reminders, and newsletters.

"Email addresses are considered personally identifiable information (PII) and are confidential at FSA. Many people have personal electronic devices and carry their lives in the palms of their hands," Wickard indicated.

FSA is asking for owner and operator support and assistance during this transition to digital communication. "Our FSA County Office staffs stand ready to assist farmers in their operations and to answer any questions they might have," said Wickard.

### Local Farm Service Agency Reminders

#### **2012 DCP and ACRE Enrollment Begins January 23, 2012**

As required in the 2008 Farm Bill, there are no 2012 advance direct payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). Enrollment for 2012 DCP and ACRE will begin on January 23, 2012. The beginning enrollment date has been moved back to January 23, 2012 for 2012 DCP and ACRE in order to allow County Office employees time to begin signup of 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) and allow County Office employees time to finalize supplemental revenue assistance programs. The enrollment deadline for 2012 DCP and ACRE elections is June 1, 2012.

### **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The Continuous CRP Program is a voluntary private-lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, landowners may receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP program, participants and acreage must meet certain eligibility requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollment into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. Practices could include filter strips, grassed waterways, riparian buffers, field windbreaks, habitat field borders and wetland restorations. Currently, Indiana has 98,371 acres enrolled in these types of conservation practices. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollment, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **SURE Sign-Up Began November 14, 2011 for 2010 Crop Losses**

Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the SURE program began November 14, 2011 and will end June 1, 2012. The SURE Program provides benefits for crop losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. This program is revenue based which accounts for losses in production quantity and quality, as well as price. A producer's SURE operation includes all acres of all crops in all counties (and states). To be eligible, a producer must have at least part of his or her "farm" located within a Secretarial declared county, a contiguous county, or must have suffered at least a 50% loss of actual production on the farm. To be eligible for payment, a producer must have suffered at least a 10% loss of production on at least one crop of economic significance in a declared or contiguous county. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and a producer's total revenue.

## 2011 Boone/Hamilton Soil Judging Practice

### 2011 Boone/Hamilton Soil Judging Practice

This year, Boone County SWCD hosted the Soil Judging practice contest and the schools that sent judging participants were Western Boone, Lebanon, and Sheridan. Sheridan took the top place this year in both the Individual and Team ranking. The top individual was Jessica Davis, who was also a part of the top Team. The names of the Sheridan winning team are; Jordan Davis, Boone Rose, Jessica Davis and Seth Parsley.

Congratulations go out to the Sheridan group and to all of the other participants. Keep up the great work!

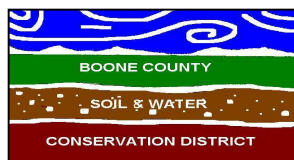


## 2011 No-Till Field Day

This year, we had another successful Field Day on August 15th at the farm of Alan Lyon. Mr. Lyon was gracious enough to let us utilize his no-till farm to help provide us with information he has collected over the years and how long he has been a no-till farmer, which has been since the 1980's. There were 64 people that attended this informative event.

We had three stations outside and one inside discussion. The stations outside consisted of equipment, soil pit and cover crop sample plots. For the equipment, we had three different brands of planters which were John Deere, Case IH and Kinze. Each had a different set-up to illustrate what works best for the owner of that planter. The soil pits, of which there were 2, were in separate fields but in the same soil type. One was in a field that has always been conventionally tilled and the other in a field that has been no-tilled since the early 1980's. One could tell a sizable difference in the soil health and structure once below what is called the "plow-pan". There was a great improvement in the no-till field. The third station was at the cover-crop sample plots. There, we observed some of the growth of 10 different plots that had single plant species and several different mixes of other plant species. The inside discussion consisted of how to apply and kill off the cover crops, planter set-ups and what they can accomplish and how water quality is improved by taking better care of the land and still making a profit from your farming operations.

Lunch was provided by Farm Credit Services.



**BOONE COUNTY SOIL  
AND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

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**Board of Supervisors**

Kathy Clawson  
Allen Mohler  
Chris Branaman  
Gerald Shelburne  
David Herr

Associate Supervisor  
Beth Neilson  
David Gettle

*One seed can start a garden.*

*One smile can lift a spirit.*

*One candle can light a room.*

*One conversation can start a friendship.*

*One step can begin a journey.*

*One heart can love many.*

*One person can make all the difference.*

**Our Mission Statement:**

The Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and staff are dedicated to helping land users/managers care for our soil and water resources with an emphasis on technical services, leadership, education, proper land use and watershed management.

**What Boone Co. SWCD has to offer**

2010 BOONE/HENDRICKS PLAT BOOKS - \$15.00 each

SURVEY FLAGS - bundle of 100 flags - \$8.50 per bundle  
\$4.50/half bundle

TILE PROBES - \$20.00 each

RAIN BARRELS - \$70.00 each tax included - variety of colors

SOIL MAPS - Need a map of soil types for your farm? It's on the web and we can show you how it works. We still have CD's available.

GRAZING LAND MEASURING STICKS - \$4.50 includes tax

PASTURE MANAGEMENT BOOKS - \$6.50 includes tax

NO-TILL DRILL

BRILLION SEEDER

CONTRACTORS LISTS - We have several list available at the office. (contractors, native grass, invasive removal.).

Call 765-483-4449

**IDNR Nursery Program**

The Jasper-Pulaski and Vallonia Nurseries offer sales of tree seedlings through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Their contact information is [www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry](http://www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry). Multiple species of tree seedlings can be obtained at an affordable cost.

The Boone County SWCD in conjunction with the Boone County Extension Office offers a pick up and delivery service from the Jasper-Pulaski Nursery to the Boone County 4-H grounds. Deadline to order trees is the third Friday in October with delivery in April.

Forms can be obtained online at the DNR website or at the BCSWCD office at 765-483-4449 and the Boone County Extension Office at 765-482-0750.